

Alpine, Texas-Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez today presented \$250,000 in funding he helped secure for the Upper Rio Grande Workforce Development Board (URGWDB). The funding will help the Board's six counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio to help create a more skilled workforce.

“It's important that we can help influence the direction the economy takes by securing federal funding for projects such as this one,” said Rodriguez. “The work that the Upper Rio Grande Workforce Development Board does is important to the future of West Texas' workers.”

The \$250,000 will be used to help create a more skilled workforce by re-training dislocated workers and preparing students. The City of El Paso and the URGWDB will work together to provide overall leadership and project implementation. The City of El Paso will work as the Project Manager and the URGWDB will work as the project coordinator.

Regional Innovation Grants are drawn from National Emergency Grant funds. The funds are used to assist state workforce agencies and local workforce investment boards, as well as their key partners, in the design and development of comprehensive and strategic regional plans. Such plans focus on aligning workforce talent development with the demands of the 21st century economy. National Emergency Grants are part of the U.S. Secretary of Labor's discretionary fund and are awarded based on a state's ability to meet specific guidelines.

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Congressman Rodriguez is a former social worker who currently serves on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and the powerful House Committee on Appropriations. For more information on Congressman Rodriguez visit <http://rodriguez.house.gov/> or contact his Communications Director Josh Rosenblum at Joshua.rosenblum@mail.house.gov